



BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

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Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren

FREE

Nelson Po requests recount of Sumpter Township election

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

On Monday, a group of five Sumpter Township residents drove to the Wayne County Elections Commission on the fifth floor of the Coleman A. Young municipal building in Detroit to file notarized complaints on the primary election held Aug. 4.

They also supported Nelson Po in his request for a recount of all the precincts and absentee voter ballots for supervisor.

Po was defeated by incumbent Supervisor John Morgan in the August primary with an announced count of 676 votes for Morgan to 327 for Po. Morgan's total included 470 absentee votes and Po's total included 159 absentee votes.

Po said he is waiting to hear back from the county concerning the Sumpter response before deciding just how far he will ask the recount to go.

Po said he was told by the election official that within 24 hours Sumpter Township would be sent copies of the notarized complaints and the news that a recount is being requested. Then, Sumpter has three days to respond to the county on the request.

"I'm not going away. I'm here," Po said when he delivered copies of the notarized affidavits to the *Independent* office. The affidavits carried the stamp of Wayne County indicating they had been received by the county.

The affidavits were signed by Po, Toni Clark, James Clark (a winning candidate for treasurer), Sherry Olds (a losing candidate for clerk), and David Hartford, Jr.

Also included in the packet to the county was page four of the Aug. 6 *Independent* with comments on the letter received by a senior citizen tucked into her absentee ballot envelope. The letter urged the voter to support the incumbents because of all the awful things that would happen if she voted for Po and those he endorsed.



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

At Monday's Zoom meeting, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education was shown designs for the \$13 million Childhood Development Center to be constructed to the east of the high school on the property the district purchased from St. Anthony Catholic Church. The first bids for construction will be back before the board on Sept. 28 for approval.

School Board votes 6-1 to OK 'Return to Learn Plan'

By Rosemary K. Otzman
Independent Editor

After four hours of discussion on the 50 pages of plans on how to reopen school on Sept. 1, during the coronavirus, the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education voted 6-1 to approve the plans.

Board member Calvin Hawkins cast the only no vote on the Return to Learn Plan.

The document is required for school districts to file with the state by Aug. 15 under Governor Gretchen Whitmer's executive order 142.

The board then set a special meeting for

7 p.m., Tuesday, Aug. 18, via Zoom unless the governor approves meeting in person. The board wants an update on the safety provisions and to see how many signed up for remote learning by the deadline.

"We need to be able to meet Phase 4 section of this plan to be able to have students in the building," said School Supt. Pete Kudlak, who presented the plan in great detail over two hours of talking and using the Zoom screen to show highlighted parts of his detailed plan.

"If we cannot meet the safety requirement, we have to delay in-person instruction," he said. "School starts Sept. 1, but it could be delayed."

Supt. Kudlak said the governor could decide to change that and she has a press conference later this week.

The meeting began with 26 written

questions and comments read from the Zoom audience because the board agenda requires comments from the audience to come before any agenda items are discussed.

Many teachers and parents expressed concerns about being at school in person during the pandemic and wanted to know details of how things would be done.

After about an hour of this, Board President Amy Pearce said this felt out of order for her and she thought Supt. Kudlak should present his plan first and then have questions after the presentation.

She made the motion to delay the questions and comments until after Kudlak's presentation. Simone Pinter seconded and the board unanimously passed the motion.

After his two-hour presentation later in

(continued on page 17)

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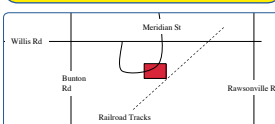
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SECOND FRONT PAGE

Online Court Watching

Dominick Anderson bound over after in-person exam

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

34th District Court Judge Tina Brooks Green presided over a preliminary exam on Monday morning that was held in person with masks, personal distancing, and plastic barriers.

This was a step forward for the court which had not been holding exams at all since the coronavirus struck in March and recently started Zoom exams.

On Monday, after the in-person exam during which the 16-year-old female victim testified, Judge Green bound Dominick Robert Anderson over to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice on Aug. 24 for an arraignment on the information.

Defense attorney Murray Duncan said the other cases he has that have been bound over to circuit court are not going anywhere, although dates had been set.

"A lot of cases are in limbo," said Prosecutor Erin Wilmoth.

Judge Green said she does not know what they are doing at circuit court, but she is binding cases over.

Anderson, 23, of Sumpter Township was charged with five felony counts of criminal sexual conduct – third degree (person 13-15) on Nov. 26 in Sumpter Township. He is free after posting bond of \$10,000/10%.

On Monday, after the girl's testimony, Prosecutor Willman added three high court misdemeanor counts of criminal sexual conduct in the fourth degree (person 13-15), which could bring two additional years each.

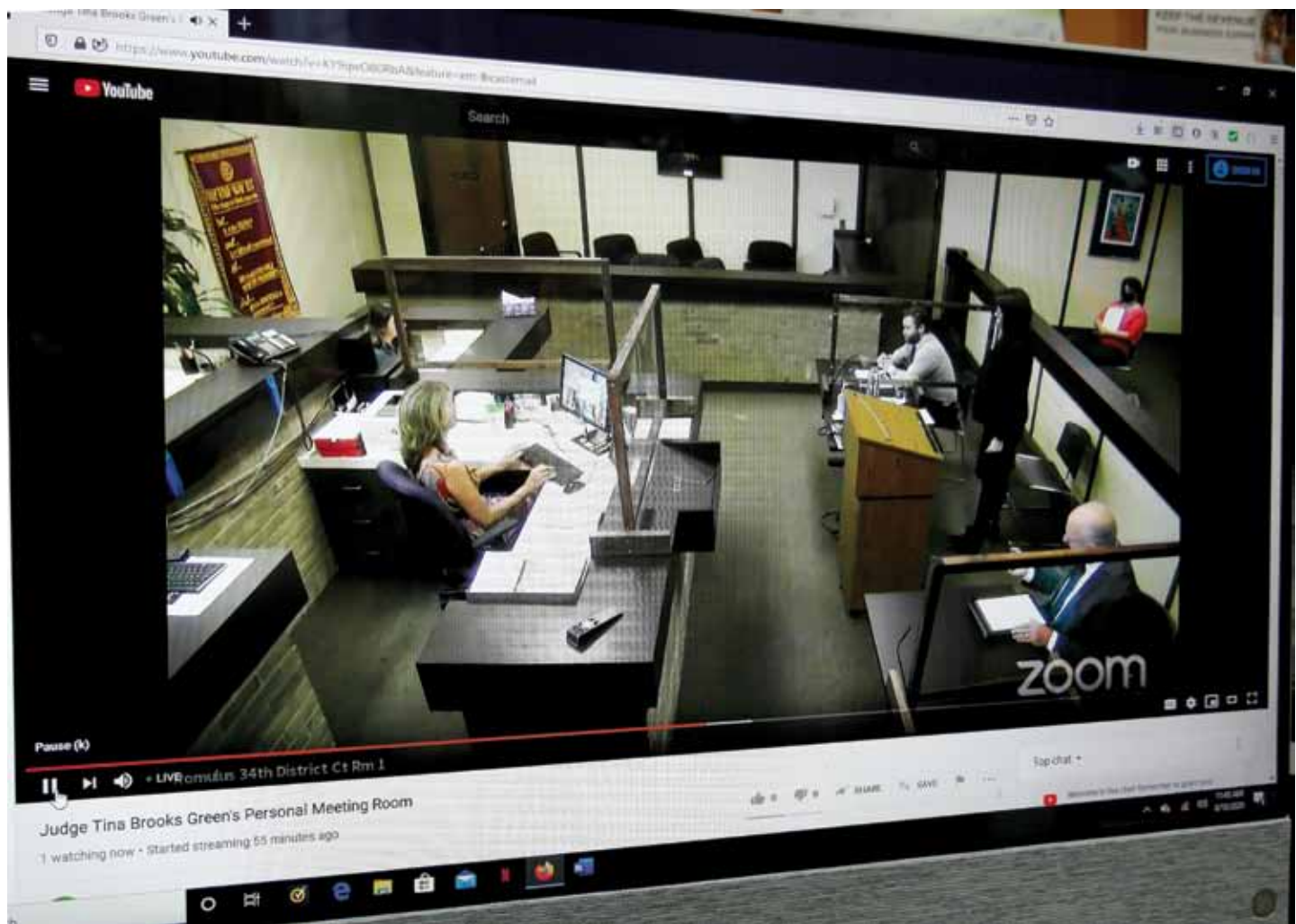
The victim testified that she lived in Cleveland and met Anderson through an online app and the two texted back and forth. She said she went to visit him at a hotel in Ohio and they "hung out" had no sexual conduct. She said she believed he was 20 years old and she was 15 years old at the time.

They planned a weekend together and he was supposed to come and get her, but he couldn't so her friend brought her to Michigan to a gas station and Anderson met her there.

She said they went to his friend's house first and then to his house where he lived with his mother and "an old guy." She stayed for the weekend and slept with Anderson.

She testified he told his mother she was older and, "I just went along with it." She said she turned 16 in March.

After multiple sexual encounters, she said she wanted to go home but he wouldn't let her text anyone. She said she waited until



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Oztman

The 34th District Court held an in-person preliminary exam on Monday morning in courtroom #1 that was also held via Zoom and sent to YouTube. At far left is a victim testifying. Clerk Marianne Szlinis records the session before Judge Tina Brooks Green, who is off camera at the left. Prosecutor Erin Wilmoth, standing at right, questions the witness while the Sumpter Township officer in charge, Detective George Salajan, sits next to her. At far right is defense attorney Murray Duncan and to his left, out of camera range, is his client. The person in the bright sweater in the back is the victim advocate. The courtroom is divided by barriers and people had to wear face masks when entering or leaving the courtroom but could take them off once they were inside their enclosure. No other people were allowed in the courtroom. The court is just beginning to schedule in-person preliminary exams after the coronavirus shut down.

he got in the shower and then texted her mother.

"I went home after the cops came," she said.

Sumpter Detective George Salajan was in the courtroom, but the recorded interview with the victim was not presented and he did not testify.

Brian Lee Williams

The preliminary exam for Brian Lee Williams, 51, of Woodhaven was held before Judge Tina Brooks Green on June 24, via Zoom, after Judge Green stopped the exam begun on June 22, when the only witness to testify couldn't be heard clearly on his Zoom connection.

After the Zoom exam on June 24, Judge Green said the evidence was a matter of fact for a jury to decide and bound Williams over to the Frank Murphy Hall of Justice for an arraignment on the information on July 8. A calendar conference was set for Aug. 5 at circuit court and then adjourned to Aug. 19.

Williams was charged with operating while intoxicated – third notice, a felony.

Sumpter Police Sgt. Brian Steffani

testified that at about 3 a.m., March 2, he was in a marked stationary police vehicle on Oakville Waltz Road west of Haggerty, when he stopped a F-150 going well in excess of the 50 mph limit at about 85 to 86 mph. He testified he did not notice whether the pickup was weaving and it did not go over any lines on the road.

He said Williams told him he had a number of drinks at a friend's house where he was helping with the plumbing. He said he went to sleep there at 9 p.m. and felt he had waited long enough and he was safe to drive. Sgt. Steffani testified that he told Williams he hadn't waited long enough because he failed the breath test and the roadside tests he gave.

Sgt. Steffani testified that Williams was very cooperative and friendly and was the "most cooperative drunk-driving arrest I had in many years."

Williams' defense attorney Stephanie Achenbach explained her client's 345-pound weight and height of 5'9", plus knee replacement surgery, may have led to him being unsteady at part of the roadside test. And he was sleepy and stressed.

Williams is free after posting bond of \$5,000/10%.

Deandre Sherrod Sanders

Deandre Sherrod Sanders, 27, of Wayne, is charged with domestic violence and assault on a police officer on March 2 in Van Buren Township and his presence was waived for his July 1 probable cause conference by defense attorney Ben Gonek.

Gonek said he received the paper discovery on the case. Prosecutor Larry King said he would check on the digital discovery and Van Buren Township is fairly quick with getting the digital information to him. Gonek said he would need one more probable cause conference and then they would waive the preliminary exam. Judge Green set the next probable cause conference for July 15.

On July 15 it was reported Sanders was presently incarcerated in Macomb County. His conference was adjourned until July 29 and then to Aug. 12. Judge Green said her court would not bring someone in from incarceration. "That won't happen," she said. Gonek said he still doesn't have the

(continued on page 13)

O P I N I O N S

Editorial

34th District Court keeps local justice rolling along

It hasn't been easy, but local judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, police officers and other hard-working individuals have been riding a bumpy road to try to bring justice in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

This week's report on one of the first in-person preliminary exams since the pandemic started shows some of what has been necessary to keep the cases moving forward. The plastic partitions divide the courtroom into sections, so once a witness or attorney is in place, it is safe to take off the mask. It's hard to judge what a witness is saying if you can't see the face. That's why some defense attorneys said they needed in-person court sessions instead of by Zoom. Witnesses wait out in their cars in the parking lot until they are called into the mostly empty courthouse to testify.

And, everyone has to become comfortable with Zoom, the virtual magic that allows everyone to see each other from their homes. There are frozen pauses when something goes wrong. Attorneys or defendants who disappear from the screen have to be hunted down by phone.

The Zoom remote exams started first and they resulted in some cases being sent to circuit court where they are waiting in line to be handled. Now, some are live.

The judges at 34th District Court are following the mandates of the Michigan Supreme Court to handle the cases and keep everyone safe. We appreciate all the patient efforts to keep justice rolling along.

EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

During last month's Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce board meeting, the directors voted unanimously to look into leasing the Chamber building at 248 Main St. The posting from the Chamber said it believes with 2,200 square feet of prime Main Street property, the best use of the building will be for a business that can draw people to the community. In the post, it was suggested a retail or dining establishment would be good.

If the voters of the City of Belleville vote Nov. 3 to allow marijuana shops in town, the Chamber office might be a good place for a retail establishment. Sure would draw people to the community.

At Friday morning's eight-minute special Zoom meeting the Belleville City Council re-did all the votes it had done on the previous Monday with the same results. This had to be done because of an Open Meeting Act technicality violation in the Monday meeting.

Councilman Ken Voigt said former council member Jack Loria would be proud of them. Jack always thought the shorter the better concerning the time of the council meetings. Since he served as Mayor Pro Tem, he made them as short as possible when the mayor was gone and he was in charge.

Jack had trouble with his longtime friend Councilman Tom Fielder, though, because Tom always has something to say and that prolonged the meetings.

Van Buren Township Supervisor Kevin McNamara was chatting with board members before the special Zoom meeting began on Thursday, Aug. 6. He said the next day was his 94-year-old mother's birthday

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



The Boys and Girls Club is not going to be operating this year. This was announced at Monday's regular Zoom meeting of the school board. School Supt. Pete Kudlak said Happy Days would still be operating in the district's building.

At that school board meeting, more than two dozen statements and questions were read after they were typed onto the Zoom platform for the meeting. At the end of the meeting there were 108 still waiting to be answered. Several teachers were unconvinced that the students and teachers would be safe going back to school at this time.

One wrote that when she goes to the grocery store, she passes people briefly, but she doesn't stay by them the required 15 consecutive minutes to transmit the virus. In the classroom it's different.

She pointed out there are infinite numbers of points of contact in the school room, halls, school bus, cafeteria. They will discourage socializing because it spreads the virus and the teachers will be policing masks every minute of every hour. She wanted the district to use online instruction only and get the food to the kids that need it, as they did in the spring.

and he was going to throw a barbecue in her honor. He said she told him she would be there at 11:30 a.m. Friday. He said he guessed the barbecue would be at noon.

Supervisor McNamara also related a story about him mowing his lawn and something hit the front window of his house and his window exploded. He said the mower must have picked up something and thrown it.

On Monday morning we heard a fire call to a house on Anna Drive in Van Buren Township. It was a second-floor alarm that was reporting smoke.

The fire truck hurried over from a medical run it had just completed on Hannan Road and reported no smoke was showing. They were informed by the homeowner that the smoke detector had gone off because it had a low battery. No fire. Monday afternoon, it went off again and the alarm company again contacted the fire department and they sent another truck. It was another false alarm.

It's kind of hard to raise funds when so few public fund raisers can be held, so the parents of the BHS Class of 2021 are coming up with different ideas to raise money for the graduation party held every year for the seniors.

The parents are throwing a Food Truck Rally from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, in the BHS parking lot. They hope community members will come on over to get their suppers while supporting the Class of 2021.



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Letters

Haggerty sub sidewalks are very dangerous

To the editor:

I live in Haggerty sub. On Saturday morning I was taking a walk and tripped on an uneven sidewalk on McBride near Pierce. I broke my glasses, split my lip, got a large contusion over my right eye, scraped my nose, both knees, the heels of both hands, and a thumb.

I'm 74 years old -- too old to be having close, personal contact with concrete. I look like a war zone and feel worse.

My question: When is the Township going to do its job and assess homeowners for the upkeep of their sidewalks? Apparently Haggerty sub is infamous for its horrible sidewalks. What's the point of having them if they aren't safe to walk on?

If anyone questions my assessment of these walkways, just come on over here and try them out. Bring your helmets and kneepads.

Kathy Ward

Van Buren Township

Library now open for 'Grab & Go' service

To the editor:

The Belleville Area District Library is now open for Grab & Go service on the first floor! Patrons can browse through new books, large print, audiobooks, AV materials, and the children's collections.

Faxing, scanning, copying, and printing services are also available. Patrons are required to wear facemasks and observe social distancing.

For more information, check out our website at www.belleville.lib.mi.us.

Hope to see you all soon!

Hilary Savage, Assistant Director
Belleville Area District Library
(734) 699-3291 www.belleville.lib.mi.us

Jet's was the big winner with election officials

To the editor:

Just wanted to give a "Shout Out" to Jet's Pizza and manager Dakota McGrew.

As an election official, I put in a request for donated pizzas for our election crew's lunch working the Aug 4 election at St. Anthony.

Without hesitation, Mr. McGrew volunteered to honor my request and allowed us to have lunch on Jet's.

I and the election officials working that day want to thank Jet's Pizza for their donation. It certainly was appreciated and the quality/taste was superb. I don't know who all won the elections, but one thing I do know, Jet's was a big winner with the election officials.

Thank you, local business owner.

Pete Pitzen

A Belleville city election official

Response to Ruth Bleeker on homework

To the editor:

I would just like to comment on the letter written by Mrs. Ruth E. Bleeker of Belleville in the July 23, 2020 *Independent*.

I agree, 100%, with Mrs. Bleeker on her note to parents: Do your homework. I do not know Mrs. Patricia Miles of Ypsilanti, who asked for the removal of the LaSalle Statue, so I can only presume that as with most "settlers" and "discoverers" land may have been stolen from the original owners, Native Americans. I wonder if a treaty was made and later defaulted on as with Mount Rushmore. Did you know that before the presidents' faces were carved into Mount Rushmore, it was called the Six Grandfathers, part of the sacred Black Hills of the Lakota tribe? Sacred land. The U.S. Government seized the land illegally in 1877, after gold had been discovered there. President Grant secretly ordered the army not to protect local tribes, as bounty hunters collected up to \$300 for each native American killed. The carving of four presidents into the hills took place in the 1920s, partly funded by the KKK.

Moving monuments and placing them in museums, such as confederate soldiers, allows us to avoid celebrating and honoring people who believed that tens of millions of other Americans should be legal property.

Mrs. Bleeker is absolutely correct. We must demand more of our schools.

I used to proudly sing the Star Spangled Banner. I thought it was such a beautiful song. Only in recent years did I even know there was a 3rd verse.

*No refuge could save the hireling and slave
from the terror of flight of gloom of grave
And the Star Spangled Banner in triumph
doth wave*

*O'er the land of the free and the home of
the brave*

You see this was a special message to let slaves know they better dare not run or try to fight for their freedom as they would be hunted down and terrorized, even more than being enslaved. I never learned this in school.

And please stop teaching that George Washington had wooden teeth. He did not! He pulled the teeth of his slaves and adorned those teeth.

Originally, the Statue of Liberty, a gift from France, was of a black woman in broken chains, to symbolize the end of slavery. The U.S. did not want this symbol so the work was rejected. The statue was redone as a white woman holding a tablet.

The Lone Ranger's character is real, but he was a black man named Bass Reeves and he lived among the Native Americans. Mozart was black!

Research the U.S. medical system and slavery. Black wall street. Rosewood. The list goes on and on. I cannot agree with Mrs. Bleeker more; do your homework!

The confederate flag does not symbolize the south; my whole family is from the south. The majority of confederate flags

(continued on page 6)

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More Letters

(continued from page 5)

flying over government buildings were placed there in the 1960s during the civil rights movement. So for the first 100 years after the Civil War ended, the flag didn't mean much to the relatives who fought in this war. The purpose of flying the confederate flag was to exhibit their displeasure with black people fighting for BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS, that should have been guaranteed. This flag is associated with the perpetuation of slavery, a symbol of segregation and hate -- similar to the trump flag which is why the KKK carry both. But I want to stay on topic, which is to do your homework.

Research Jane Elliott, she probably looks like you. She is fascinating and amazing!

Mrs. Bleeker mentioned some terms that I want to define here:

1. Marxist - society's classes are the cause of struggle and that society should have no classes. (So I'm just guessing, but they may not like white supremacists and vice versa.)

2. Antifa - against fascism

3. Fascism - Government system led by a dictator having complete power, forcibly suppressing opposition and criticism. (Hmmm, sounds familiar no wonder he does not like Antifa.)

4. Black Lives Matter - A movement advocating for non-violent civil disobedience in protest against incidents of police brutality and all incidents of violence against African American people. (God bless the day when a movement such as this is not needed because ALL people will be treated with respect and decency.)

Please look up Luke 15. Don't have it handy, let me sum it up. There are 100 sheep, but one goes missing. Jesus leaves the 99 and goes after the one. The 99: "But what about us? Don't we matter?" Of course, the 99 still matter, but they're not the ones in danger. The one is.

Here's a definition that Mrs. Bleeker forgot to mention.

5. Boogaloo boys - a movement organized by the far right anti-government extremists/militia. Initially BLM protestors were blamed for starting fires and destruction, but soon, it was discovered that it was the boogaloo movement, strongly financed, bused in to cause chaos.

What is this generation being taught?

I will say that I am so proud to see so many young people, of all colors, walking arm and arm in peaceful protest, just as it occurred in the 1960s marches, but I know there were many Mrs. Bleekers complaining, shouting "my freedoms," "my America" then as well.

I was so sad I missed the BLM walk held in Belleville a short while ago; I would certainly have participated. I was proud to see they were here in Belleville, VERY proud.

I will continue to pray that American history will no longer be white-washed

history but taught as it truly occurred. I will not comment on Mrs. Bleeker's expressions about her president. They are her feelings and through all he has done, she continues to support. This speaks volumes. God bless her.

I do, however, want to ask Mrs. Bleeker a question. What do these comments mean?

We can soon wave good-bye to our God-given and God-blessed America, our constitution, and freedoms?

Is your America, Constitution, and freedoms different from others? Do you worry every time your son leaves the house because he may be stopped by the police simply because of the color of his skin?

Have you ever been prevented from purchasing a home, car, or attend a school because of the color of your skin? Been enslaved because of the color of your skin?

I'm sure I know the answer already.

I will continue to pray that all Americans (and those around the world) will learn to

love and respect each other, not feel the color of someone's skin makes them more than or less than the next. Realize that we are all children of God and that the hate this country was built on will soon dissipate. Talking, more importantly listening, AND doing your homework is the first step. Keep the conversation going.

Thank you for starting the conversation Mrs. Bleeker. I only hope you would also be open to listening. Science is Real. No human is illegal. Love is Love.

Mrs. Pamela Hurst
Belleville

St. Jude's Novena answered my prayers

To the editor:

If you say this prayer nine times a day, by the eighth day your prayer will be answered. It has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised when you received what you've been asking for.

St. Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adored, glorified, loved, and preserved throughout the world now and forever. Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us. St. Jude, worker of miracles, pray for us. St. Jude, keeper of the hopeless, pray for us.

Thank you, St. Jude, for answering my prayers. My healing process is slow, but God is definitely answering my prayers. Healing takes time. Prayer heals and absolute prayer heals absolutely.

Always in prayer
GR, Belleville

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-- Margaret Thatcher
British Prime Minister, 1925-2013

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Obituaries



Stanley F. Smith

STANLEY F. SMITH

(December 25, 1940 – August 1, 2020)

Stanley F. Smith left his earthly home and family to take his place with his heavenly father on August 1, 2020 following a brief battle with cancer. He was born in Detroit, Michigan on December 25, 1940 to Franklin W. Smith and Velma (Miller) Smith. Stanley was a graduate of Charlevoix High School and worked for over 30 years for Charlevoix Abstract Engineering as a surveyor. This job led to Stanley settling in the Romulus area where he met Asondra, whom he married on July 28, 1990. He was also a brick mason and after retirement took a job as a bus driver for Romulus Schools. He was a connoisseur of music, from Classical to Rap. He was an avid pool player and loved to hunt and fish. He had a small farm and enjoyed working around the animals. Stanley worked hard all his life to support his family. He was a humble, faithful and obedient servant of the Lord and a fitting example of a man who walked with God. He was a member of Cornerstone Christian Church in Belleville. For many years he drove a church van to pick up homeless men in the surrounding communities so they could attend church and have a warm meal. He was always ready to help anyone in need. Stan and Asondra opened up their home and became foster parents to over 25 children over the years. Stanley even put his own life in jeopardy by jumping into the Bear River in Petoskey and rescued a two-year-old boy from drowning. He was a compassionate and loving man devoted to both God and family. He will be greatly missed by all who had the pleasure of knowing him.

Stanley was preceded in death by his parents, Brother Dale Smith and sister, Donnale Rathjens. Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 30 years, Asondra, children Glenn Allen Smith of Manistee, Jeffrey Scott Smith of Charlevoix, Matthew Smith of Jackson, Robert Singleton of Romulus, Brittne Smith, and Zoey Smith of Romulus, siblings Gary Smith, Marianne "Susie" Wise, and Steven (Diane) Smith all of Charlevoix and Delores "Toni" Kilpatrick of Jackson. He is also survived by 8 grandchildren, 2 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

A celebration of his life will be held on Saturday, August 22, 2020 at Noon outside at the Cornerstone Christian Church in Belleville. Rain date is Sunday, August 23, 2020 at 4 p.m. Graveside services will be held at Brookside Cemetery in Charlevoix, Michigan on August 29 at 11:00 a.m. Memorial contributions may be given to either the family or Cornerstone Christian Church in Belleville, Michigan. Arrangements are being handled by Penzien Funeral Home, 621 Main Street, East Jordan, Michigan.



Sandra Kay Obeginski

SANDRA OBEGINSKI

(August 7, 1962 – July 28, 2020)

Sandra Kay Obeginski, age 75, long-time Belleville-area resident, passed away Tuesday, August 11, 2020 at her home. She was born February 5, 1945 in Batesville, Arkansas, daughter of Noah James & Ivoy (Clark) Morgan.

Sandy was the loving wife of 57 years to Albert Obeginski and a loving mom. She loved gardening and flowers. Sandy had a gift for serving people with a heart of compassion. She was an example of someone that loved with a selfless love. She was an excellent cook with a passion for canning. She enjoyed weekends for a visit to many craft shows.

She is survived by her husband Albert; daughter Kimberly (Rudy) Ebmer of Lincoln Park, MI; son Mark (Mary) Obeginski of Milan, M; 4 grandchildren: Julie, Brandon (Faith), Kara and Jackie; a great-grandson Grayson; 4 siblings: Barbara (Charles) Obeginski of Russell Springs, KY, Faith (Wally) Stubler of Moline, IL, Patrick Morgan of Joliet, IL, Peggy (Tim) Couke of St. Paul, MN; numerous nieces, nephews, cousins and extended family in Illinois and Arkansas. Sandy was preceded in death by her parents, also a great-grandson William.

Visitation will be 1-7 p.m. Thursday at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734)697-4500 with a 7 p.m. Rosary. Due to the COVID-19 restrictions, there is a limit of ten (10) people in the building at one time. Masks, scarves or bandannas are required inside the building. A Funeral Mass will be at 11 a.m. Friday, August 14, 2020 at St. Anthony Catholic Church, 409 W. Columbia Ave., Belleville, MI 48111 with visitation from 10-11 a.m. in Church. Masks are required inside the church as well. Interment will be at 1 p.m. at Washtenong Memorial Park, Ann Arbor, MI.

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GARY SAMPSON

Gary Sampson passed away on Monday, August 3, 2020 and has been cremated. A memorial service will be held at 12:30 p.m., Friday, September 4, at St. Michael's Catholic Church in Hudson, Florida. A second memorial will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, October 17, at St. Anthony Catholic Church in Belleville.

Upcoming Meetings

- Thursday, Aug. 13 – Sumpter Township Planning Commission, 7 p.m., if needed. Also, Belleville Planning Commission, 7 p.m.
- Monday, Aug. 17 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Belleville City Council, 7:30 p.m.
- Tuesday, Aug. 18 – Van Buren Township regular meeting, 6 p.m. Also, special meeting of the Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education, 7 p.m.
- Wednesday, Aug. 19 – Belleville Downtown Development Authority, 6 p.m. Also, Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, 7 p.m.

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VBT Board approves adding public safety millage to Nov. 3 ballot

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to place a Public Safety Renewal question on the Nov. 3 General Election ballot.

Action was taken at a 27-minute special meeting Aug. 6, via Zoom.

A seven-year 6.5-mill public safety tax was approved Nov. 8, 2016 and it runs through December, 2023. Due to the rollbacks from the Headlee Amendment, the tax is now 6.3931 mills, said township attorney Angela Mannarino.

The new ballot question will keep the millage running for another seven years, from December, 2024, through December 2030, after the first millage runs out at the end of 2023.

Although VBT Supervisor Kevin McNamara had considered several different proposals for the public safety millage extension, and disseminated them to board members, for the final decision, he presented only one.

"I've always believed ... taxation should always be decided by the most voters," Supervisor McNamara said in explaining why he wanted this on the ballot of the Presidential Election. He said the board isn't sneaking in an election in March or April or in the middle of the night, but putting it on the ballot that will bring the most voters.

He said if they wait until the Gubernatorial Election in two years, passing it will be a must because the millage will be expiring.

McNamara said the public safety millage brings in \$6.1 million of the township budget. If the public safety millage is not assured, it plays havoc with the township's credit rating. He said he has gone over the township credit reports over the last years and the township depends on the landfill

for funding and the township has a Visteon issue out there. He said when those who set the credit ratings see the public safety millage is about to expire that will weaken the township's standing.

He said in the next few years, there will be abilities for the township to go out for bonding and the township needs to be as stable as possible.

"If we only have one year left, they are going to sock us when we go out for bonding," he said. "We have to make sure we are stable."

Trustee Reggie Miller encouraged McNamara to explain to the public why the township should go out for the extension now, when they have three more years.

McNamara said he wants the most amount of people to vote on this and that would be in the Presidential election.

"You cannot live without the public safety millage," he said, noting VBT has the second lowest tax rate in Wayne County, second only to Sumpter Township.

"Sumpter Township is the lowest in Wayne County and I don't know how they do it," McNamara said, adding, "Hats off to Sumpter Township."

He said when he came on board four years ago, VBT had a 22-year-old ladder truck that the state no longer let them use and two 18-year-old fire trucks. They were running with one man in two fire stations

because people didn't want to work for them.

McNamara said now they have rebuilt two fire stations and have a new ladder truck, two new fire trucks, and six full-time fire fighters.

Trustee Miller asked how millage affects the timing for response.

Police Chief Jason Wright said without the funding, they could not answer calls. Without manpower, they couldn't go on runs. The calls are answered by people, he stressed, and they do the dispatching and patrol the lake and neighborhoods. Without

manpower, provided by the millage, they couldn't go on runs.

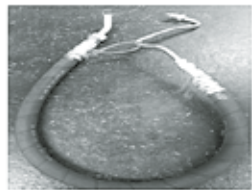
"The existing public safety millage is critical to our operations," Chief Wright said.

McNamara said VBT has a millage rate of 7.4, compared to Romulus at 22 or 23 mills, Livonia at 20, Westland at 25, and Canton at 12 or 13, he wasn't sure.

Trustee Kevin Martin said they want to extend the millage for seven more years, but what if the cost of fuel goes up in three to four years? What would they do then?

(continued on page 9)

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**Charter Township of Van Buren
 County of Wayne, Michigan
 Resolution 2020-14
 Ballot Question Proposal
 Public Safety Millage Renewal**

As a renewal of previously authorized millage, which expires December 2023, shall the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, levy taxes in an amount not to exceed 6.3931 mills (\$6.3931 per \$1,000 taxable value) to provide funds for public safety services, including: police; fire; dispatch; emergency management; and ordinance enforcement? The 6.3931 mills (\$5.391 per \$1,000 taxable value) is to be levied against all property within the Township, pursuant to 1947 PA 359, as amended, for a period of seven years beginning December 2024 through December 2030, inclusive, which would be approximately \$7,428,398 when first levied in December 2024, less the estimate tax captures: Downtown Development Authority in the amount of \$640,000 (pursuant to 2018 PA 57, as amended); and Local Development Finance Authority in the amount of \$220,775 (pursuant to 2018 PA 57, as amended).

Yes _____ No _____

VBT

(continued from page 8)

McNamara said the Headlee Amendment cuts back the millage, as well. He said the millage rate can be raised by a vote of the people, and attorney Mannarino agreed.

McNamara said one mill in VBT is worth \$950,000 and \$95,000 of that was lost to Headlee. He said he holds all departments to 2-3%.

He said creating wealth for residents by increasing the value of their property will be the way to add tax money.

Clerk Leon Wright said the township did raise the millage. It was 4.5 mills and they increased it to 6.5 mills. He said it was increased then and he didn't think it was a

good idea to increase it now.

He said he agrees now is the time to put it out to the people as a renewal at the 6.3931 mill current levy.

Trustee Martin said he was not opposed to the renewal, but two or three years down the road things might change and seven years is a long time to plan. He said the township has upgraded the public safety facilities and equipment and "our people are very well-trained – police and fire."

McNamara said in the last three years the township pumped \$3 million into police and fire, which hadn't been upgraded in 20 years. He said \$300,000 was put into vehicles. The department should be cheaper to run now, if hopefully it is maintained.

"I'm all for it," said Trustee Sherry Frazier, a real estate agent. "Public safety is number one for new community members... they always look for public safety." She said the department's present leaders are forward-thinking and proactive.

"If down the road ... we got in a desperate situation, we could always go back to the people," said Treasurer Sharry Budd. She said with this millage extension, she thinks they will be OK.

"We're trying to get it passed now so we won't have to worry about it down the line," said Trustee Miller. She said the board's goal is to get the taxpayers on board with this and get it passed. It doesn't mean it's a slam dunk because it's an election year, she said.

Before the vote, Trustee Martin asked about the three options McNamara had



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Members of the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees took part in a special meeting via Zoom on Aug. 6 to make a decision on renewal of the public safety millage. From left, at top, are Trustee Paul White, Trustee Kevin Martin, and Trustee Sherry Frazier. In the center row, from left, are Clerk Leon Wright, Supervisor Kevin McNamara, and Trustee Reggie Miller. In the bottom row, from left, are Police Chief Jason Wright, attorney Angela Mannarino, and Treasurer Sharry Budd.

sent to them earlier and McNamara said this option is the one he wanted because it has "renewal" in the wording.

Trustee Martin said that would be option one that he presented.

McNamara said he had 40 pieces of paper going back and forth with lawyers on this and he knew the board had a deadline to get it on the Nov. 3 ballot. That's why the special meeting was necessary.

The regular Aug. 3 work/study and Aug. 4 regular meetings had been canceled because of the primary election on Aug. 4.

McNamara said he would get together with attorney Mannarino right away to make sure the next steps are taken to get the ballot wording to the Wayne County Clerk by the deadline for the Nov. 3 ballot.

Before the meeting started, McNamara explained to the board that the cost of public safety to the township was \$8.5 million and the public safety millage brought \$6.1 million and about \$1 million more came in from court fees, an allocation from the landfill and other sources. He said that means the township budget still is supporting public safety by \$1.4 million.

"Public safety is our top priority," said

Trustee Paul White.

In comments at the end of the meeting Trustee Martin commended the clerk's office for doing a great job in the primary election with timely results.

Clerk Wright agreed that the poll workers, the absentee voter board, and his staff did an outstanding job. He said they had 5,698 absentee ballots and a total of 8,010 voters, a new primary record for the township.

"It's a good thing to see our democracy at work," Clerk Wright said. "We're going to do it again in November."

He said they were able to vote without any resistances.

Clerk Wright thanked the board for allowing him to purchase the items he needed to run a good election for the people.

Trustee Frazier thanked the residents who take a democracy seriously and make their voices heard by going to the ballot box.

Clerk Wright said he thought they might have to call police if they had any problems, but "Maybe two people came without a mask out of 2,400 and we had no problem at all."

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Brooklyn Keele, Belleville High School Class of 2020, was one of the two \$500 scholarship winners through the City of Belleville Fire Auxiliary. From left are Fire Auxiliary member Judy Jordan, Keele, secretary Ashley Snyder, and president Kimberly Keenmon. Brooklyn, who graduated with honors, was a drum major in the BHS Marching Band and a Michigan High School Athletic Association individual and team state qualifier on the BHS Women's Bowling team as well as a member of the BHS Volleyball team. She will attend Concordia University, Ann Arbor, majoring in music education. During her freshman year at Concordia, Brooklyn will be a member of the marching band, the Cardinal Regiment and a member of its NAIA Division II Women's Volleyball team.



Collin Attard, Belleville High School Class of 2020, was one of the two \$500 scholarship winners through the City of Belleville Fire Auxiliary. From left are Fire Auxiliary member Judy Jordan, Collin, secretary Ashley Snyder and president Kimberly Keenmon. Collin was a member of the BHS Marching Band and was a Science Olympiad regional winner. He will attend Michigan Technological University where he will major in computer science with an ultimate goal of being a videogame developer.

"Half of the American people have never read a newspaper. Half never voted for President. One hopes it is the same half."

— Gore Vidal

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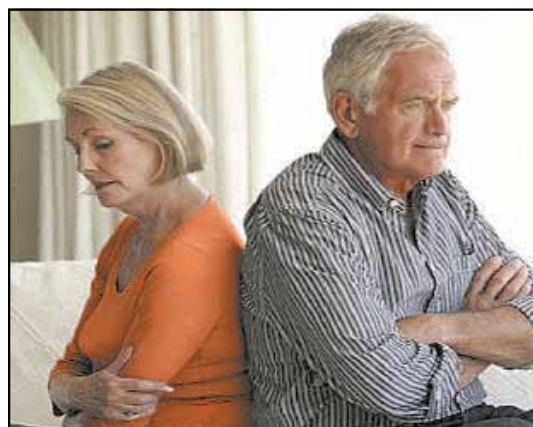
I also wanted to thank the voters and my amazing staff for the record-breaking turnout for an August Primary Election. 8,010 voters turned out to make their voices heard. This turnout is the highest Van Buren Township has ever seen in a Primary Election. I look forward to breaking more records in November! #vbtvotes

- Clerk Leon Wright



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Puri to face Hess in November for 21st District House seat

Unofficial results of the Aug. 4 primary election show the following results for 21st District Representative in the State Legislature, the seat currently occupied by Rep. Kris Pagan, who is term-limited.

The Democratic and Republican winners will face off on Nov. 3.

Democratic:

- Ranjeev Puri, 12,222 votes, 69.98%
- Ethan Petzold, 5,243 votes, 30.02%

Republican:

- Laurel Hess, 3,446 votes, 46.34%
- James F. Chapman, 1,243 votes, 16.72%
- James Nangle, 998 votes, 13.42%
- Jessica Sohoza, 978 votes, 13.15%
- Harold Bullock, 771 votes, 10.37%

12th District State House

Democratic:

- Alex Garza, 9,054 votes, 76.48%
- Ed Martell, 2,023 votes, 17.09%
- Derrick a. Gyorkos, 762 votes, 6.44%

Republican:

- Michelle Bailey, 4,277 votes, 100%

17th District State House

Democratic:

- Christopher Slat, 4,376 votes, 62.44%
- Scott Cramton, 2,632 votes, 37.56%

Republican:

- Joe Bellino, Jr., 7,747 votes, 100%

34th District Court Judge

(Two top vote-getters will compete for 6-year term on Nov. 3)

- Lisa Martin, 4,213 votes, 27.43%
- Alexandria Taylor, 3,800 votes, 24.74%
- David M. Parrott, 3,430 votes, 22.33%
- Robert P. Coutts, 2,150 votes, 14%
- John R. Day, 1,767 votes, 11.50%

Sumpter Township

There were 2,383 votes cast out of the 7,607 registered voters for a turnout of 31.33%. Unofficial returns were sent to the *Independent* at 1:39 a.m., Aug. 5.

Democratic - Supervisor:

- John W. Morgan, 206 election day, 470 absentee, 676 total
- Nelson Po, 168 election day, 159 absentee, 327 total
- Denise Komora, 50 election day, 148 absentee, 198 total
- Antoine Jordan, 59 election day, 119 absentee, 178 total

Republican - Supervisor:

- Tim Bowman, 494 election day, 226 absentee, 720 total

Democratic - Clerk:

- Esther Hurst, 216 election day, 526 absentee, 742 total
- Sherry Olds, 239 election day, 348 absentee, 587 total

Democratic - Treasurer:

- James C. Clark, 263 election day, 432 absentee, 695
- Vincent Warren, 163 election day, 384 absentee, 547 total

Democratic - 4 trustees to be elected:

- Sheena Barnes, 265 election day, 455 absentee, 720 total
- Peggy A. Morgan, 229 election day, 463 absentee, 692 total
- Don LaPorte, 194 election day, 464 absentee, 658 total
- Matt Oddy, 191 election day, 463 absentee, 654 total
- Don Swinson, 187 election day, 443 absentee, 630 total
- Ken Myers, 186 election day, 366 absentee, 552 total

Eric Partridge, 160 election day, 300 absentee, 460 total

Republican - Trustee

- Tim Rush, 466 election day, 220 absentee, 686 total

Sumpter Township Fire Protection Millage:

- Yes - 668 election day, 908 absentee, 1,576 total
- No - 294 election day, 346 absentee, 640 total

Van Buren Township

There were 8,010 ballots cast out of the 23,761 registered voters for a turnout of 33.71%. Unofficial returns were sent to the *Independent* at 11:17 p.m., Aug. 4.

Democratic - Supervisor:

- Kevin McNamara, 1,251 election day, 3,506 absentee, 4,757 total

Democratic - Clerk:

- Leon Wright, 1,239 election day, 3,443 absentee, 4,682 total

Democratic - Treasurer:

- Sharry A. Budd, 1,195 election day, 3,423 absentee, 4,618 total

Democratic - 4 trustees to be elected:

- Reggie Miller, 958 election day, 2,724 absentee, 3,682 total
- Kevin Martin, 732 election day, 2,367 absentee, 3,099 total
- Sherry Frazier, 832 election day, 2,111 absentee, 2,943 total
- Donald Boynton, Jr., 500 election day, 1,708 absentee, 2,208 total
- Paul D. White, 418 election day, 1,474 absentee, 1,892 total
- Walter S. Rochowiak, 324 election day, 1,480 absentee, 1,804 total

Republican - Trustee

- Cameron Porzondek, 545 election day, 738 absentee, 1,283 total

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Belleville Council holds special Zoom meeting on Friday morning

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The Belleville City Council held an eight-minute Zoom meeting Friday at 10 a.m. to re-vote on all the items that were considered at the previous meeting on Monday, Aug. 3.

City Manager Tracey Schultz Kobylarz explained the situation in an email to the *Independent*: "Due to the unintentional clerical error regarding meeting and the agenda of Aug. 3 which omitted the Zoom location, City Council will hold a special meeting to reenact their votes as the remedy required for compliance with the open meetings act (OMA)."

At times at Friday's meeting, there was a bare quorum as Councilman Tom Fielder, who was Up North and present by phone, had a dropped connection twice and was gone from the meeting twice briefly. Councilwoman Kelly Bates was unavailable to attend the meeting.

The council again approved a six-month extension of the current contract for City Manager Kobylarz; the mayor's appointments to boards and commissions; again denied a resolution to initiate a city ordinance to establish marijuana businesses and denied a resolution to amend the city charter to add regulations for marijuana establishments and directed the clerk to place both questions on the Nov. 3 ballot; denied a motion, on a 2-2 vote, to create a charter amendment to eliminate compensation for the mayor and city council members with Councilman Ken Voigt and Mayor Pro Tem Jesse Marcotte voting yes and Councilman Tom Fielder and Mayor Kerreen Conley voting no; and approved accounts payable and a check of \$1,700 to TNT Tree Service.

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Independent photo by Bob Mytych

The Lunch Box restaurant is in its last days in the site it occupied on Main Street's curve just south of the Belleville Bridge. The restaurant's contents were to be emptied out last Monday and it will be leveled by a demolition crew shortly. This is the last of the old buildings on that site. Developer Scott Jones' crews have removed other buildings and almost all of the asphalt from that area to get the land ready for construction of a commercial center. The proposed buildings are scheduled to include a new site for the Lunch Box.

Wayne County Proposition O Operating Millage Renewal

- Yes – 77,212 election day, 197,398 absentee, 274,610 total
- No – 30,298 election day, 53,137 absentee, 83,435 total

Wayne County Proposition P Parks Millage Renewal

- Yes – 79,203 election day, 196,324 absentee, 275,527 total
- No – 412 election day, 765 absentee, 1,177 total

City of Belleville
There were 436 votes cast on election day and 678 absentee votes, for a total of 1,114 votes cast out of 3,304 registered voters in the City of Belleville. This made an election turnout of 33.71%.

The unofficial returns from the city were sent to the *Independent* at 10:57 p.m., Aug. 4.

COVID-19 positive cases in 48111 rise to 555

The COVID-19 death rate in the 48111 zip code had been 30 since June 22, but then on July 25 one more death was recorded. The coronavirus deaths in the tri-community of Belleville, Van Buren, and Sumpter have remained at 31 since then.

The positive tests for COVID-19 in 48111 were 555 on Tuesday, Aug. 11, up from 541 the previous Tuesday, Aug. 4.

On Tuesday, Aug. 11, the separate numbers released by the Wayne County Health Department for the tri-community were: Van Buren Township, 323 positive cases, 16 deaths; City of Belleville, 167 positive cases, 14 deaths; and Sumpter Township 65 positive cases, 1 death.

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Dirty ductwork can cause your equipment to work harder which will cause a higher equipment failure rate. Cleaning your ductwork, along with general maintenance, will help give your equipment a lifetime of reliability.

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Court watching

(continued from page 3)

911 tape and body cams.

Maurice Schropshire

Maurice Schropshire, 25, of Van Buren Township is charged with assault to do great bodily harm less than murder and domestic violence on April 6 in Van Buren Township. He was present before Judge Green on July 1 for his probable cause conference, but his defense attorney Daniel Wasek still didn't have the discovery he requested on June 3.

Prosecutor King said he believed he sent it to Wasek, but when he found he hadn't he apologized and said he would get it to him in a couple of days. He said Van Buren Police are "real quick" and the defense attorney will have the discovery in a week or less.

Judge Green adjourned the probable cause conference to July 8. Schropshire said he is attempting to sign up for an online class called "Full Sail" but they put a hold on accepting him until the case is over. He is free on \$10,000 personal bond.

On July 8, the defense attorney still needed the discovery and King said he sent it to him that morning. He said the VBT Police delayed getting it to him because of staffing issues. The probable cause conference was adjourned again, this time to July 13. At that time the defense attorney demanded a live exam and it will be set after Sept. 1.

William Oliver Wood

William Oliver Wood, 35, of Romulus

was arraigned June 24 by Magistrate Al Hindman on a felony charge of possession of a controlled substance in Van Buren Township on Oct. 6.

Wood said he has been trying to turn himself in at the VBT police department, but they kept telling him to wait, because of the coronavirus. He was able to turn himself in the previous day and his attorney Samer Jadallah pointed out he had been in lockup for two days.

"I was addicted to heroin and I've been clean two weeks," he said. Magistrate Hindman set \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and a probable cause conference for July 8. That conference was adjourned until July 29 and then to Aug. 19. Wood also was told to set up a payment plan for the \$1,314 he owed for a probation violation.

John David Machacek

John David Machacek of Belleville is charged with domestic violence - third offense on June 28 in Van Buren Township. His appointed attorney Earl Washington of Neighborhood Defender Service of Detroit told Judge Brian Oakley on July 8 that he has been unable to contact his client. Also, he needs discovery.

Judge Oakley adjourned Machacek's probable cause conference to July 22. He is free on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond, with an order to have no contact with the victim.

On July 22, he showed up at the closed court in person at the front door and was told how to get on the Zoom conference at 9:40 a.m. and how to contact his attorney. Judge Oakley noted it was 9:50 and

Machacek was not present and Oakley was tired of adjourning his probable cause conference. Washington said he would try to get ahold of him and Judge Oakley adjourned the conference for one week, to July 29.

The exam was held by Zoom on July 30 and Machacek was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Aug. 12.

James Thomas Kimball

James Thomas Kimball, 48, of Burton, MI was arraigned by video from the Van Buren Township PD by Judge Green on July 15 on a charge of domestic violence on July 13. His personal bond was set at \$10,000 and he was told to have no contact with the victim and not to return to the address on Lake Pointe Pass. A pretrial conference was later set for Aug. 31.

Ronald Joseph Webb

Ronald Joseph Webb, 55, of Van Buren Township, had a probable cause conference set on July 22, but there was an issue with discovery, so Judge Green adjourned the conference until Aug. 5. Then, Judge Oakley adjourned the probable cause conference until Aug. 12.

Webb is charged with home invasion first-degree and assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder on July 10 in Van Buren Township. He is free on \$10,000 personal bond and is to have no contact with the victim. Webb is being represented by Robert Burton-Harris from the Neighborhood Defense Service.

Jakeem Rodney Ware

Jakeem Rodney Ware of Ann Arbor was arraigned by Judge Green on July 22 on a five-year felony charge of malicious destruction of personal property, \$1,000 to \$20,000 in value (a Pontiac G6) and also assaulting/resisting/obstructing police officers on July 21 in Van Buren Township.

He was given \$10,000 personal bond and his bond depends on him having no contact with the victim and he cannot return to the Town and Country trailer park.

Judge Green said the officers involved were VBT Officers McCormick and Belinski.

She said because of prior convictions in 2018 and 2019, the penalty for the five-year offense is increased to 10 years. Judge Green said the officers recommended personal bond because Ware has medical conditions.

His probable cause conference was set for Aug. 5, but attempts by his attorney to contact Ware were unsuccessful and he didn't show up for Zoom court. Judge Green issued a bench warrant for Ware's

arrest.

Austin James West

Austin James West, 25, of Sumpter Township, was due on July 29 for his probable cause conference on two charges of assaulting / resisting / obstructing a police officer in Belleville on July 5.

The probable cause conference had been adjourned to July 29 from July 15 because the defense attorney did not have discovery from the Belleville PD. On July 29, defense attorney Earl Washington from the Neighborhood Defense Service reported he still did not have all the discovery.

Prosecutor Smith said Belleville is not as forthcoming with uploading evidence. She said there was video at the time.

At an Aug. 5 court session before Judge Green, Prosecutor Lori Mireles-Smith apologized, saying, "I misspoke last week and I apologize to the Belleville Police Department and its officers. They haven't been non-forthcoming. They don't have access yet and they have gone through the things they have to go through." She referred to the discovery.com site.

She said until the technical difficulties are worked out the discovery can be picked up at the Belleville Police Department.

A Zoom preliminary exam had been set for 10:30 a.m., Aug. 10.

Michael David Woody

Michael David Woody, 39, of Sumpter Township was arraigned on a bench warrant by Judge Oakley on July 30. Woody is charged with assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault), which was a knife, and malicious destruction of personal property between \$200 and \$1,000 (a misdemeanor) on March 19 on Archwood in Van Buren Township.

Woody told Judge Oakley the victim was his ex-girlfriend's boyfriend. Woody told the judge he was recently arrested in Canton for retail fraud, but the charge was dropped because it was someone else.

Police told Judge Oakley that there are warrants out for his arrest from the cities of Detroit and Dearborn, both narcotics charges.

Judge Oakley set a probable cause conference for 11:10 a.m., Aug. 12, and set bond for \$20,000/10%.

Shannon Marie Johnson

Shannon Marie Johnson, 29, of Van Buren Township was scheduled for her probable cause conference on Aug. 5, but her defense attorney Timothy Wrather of Neighborhood Defender Service said he was having trouble getting the discovery from Van Buren Township PD. Judge

(Continued on page 15)

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Court watching

(continued from page 13)

Green adjourned the conference for three weeks to Aug. 26.

Johnson is charged with three counts of assaulting/resisting/obstructing a police officer, one count of aggravated assault, and one count of interfering with a crime report on July 25 in Van Buren Township.

She also had another case from Feb. 18 for possession of narcotics in Van Buren Township and she was arraigned on a bench warrant for that charge.

Johnson had a \$10,000/10% bond on the first case, with no contact with the victim, and had to wear a GPS tether for release. Judge Green set personal bond of \$5,000

on the second case and set that probable cause conference for Aug. 26, as well.

Johnson was present at the court session via Zoom from the county jail. Defense attorney Wrather told Judge Green that his client's bond has been posted and she is still incarcerated, waiting for them to attach the tether. He asked Judge Green to remove the order for a tether so Johnson could get out of jail.

Judge Green didn't want to do that but promised to have the court call the jail to try to move the process along.

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The district's contractor began shipping FUSRAP-related material from the Luckey Site in June 2018. Over 725,000 truck miles were travelled, safely transporting 83,839 tons of contaminated material off-site for disposal in Belleville, MI.

Each truckload averages approximately 16.5 tons of material and typically 70 truckloads leave the site each week. Since the cleanup contract was awarded in 2015, the Corps of Engineers' contractor has worked over 370,000 hours without a lost-time accident. Cleanup began in the Phase 1 excavation area on April 16,

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2018, and currently verification samples are being collected to confirm the area is complete. Overall, the entire cleanup is 37% complete.

"I'm incredibly proud of our team's safe execution of the FUSRAP mission at this major milestone in the Luckey project," said Lt. Col. Eli S. Adams, USACE Buffalo District Commander. "Our top priority during the cleanup continues to be the safety and protection of human health for both our community and the workforce as well as securing the health of the environment. I have family who live and work just a short distance away from this site so it is especially rewarding work for me personally. We are also actively monitoring the evolving COVID-19 situation and are in regular communication with our personnel and contractors to emphasize the importance of taking appropriate actions -- such as social distancing, wearing appropriate protective equipment, temperature screening of individuals before entry into the site, and personal hygiene measures -- to safeguard employee health and welfare while working during the pandemic."

We will continue to provide updates to you via email and also in the form of an infographic that tracks our progress, which is posted weekly on our website at <https://www.lrb.usace.army.mil/Missions/HTRW/FUSRAP/Luckey-Site/>. If you know someone that would be interested in receiving updates regarding the Luckey Site, please ask them to contact us at fusrap@usace.army.mil.

Arleen K. Kreusch, APR
Outreach Program Specialist
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Buffalo District
Special Projects Branch, Environmental Project Management Section
1776 Niagara St.
Buffalo, New York 14207
1-800-833-6390 (Option 4)



Aug. 11 – Claudia Roullier
Aug. 14 – Nick Dearing, Lianne Clair
Aug. 16 – Lola Kennedy
Aug. 18 – Elizabeth Losen
Aug. 19 – Peggy Voigt
Aug. 20 – Martha Hanoian
Aug. 21 – Stacey Etherton
Aug. 25 – Michael Kasperek

Do you or someone you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* and we will publish as soon as possible.

Van Buren Township police discover body in bed of truck on Sunday

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

The body of a man was discovered by Van Buren Township Police in the bed of an F-250 truck parked in the grass next to and facing Belleville Lake in the area of Belleville and Quirk roads on Sunday morning.

The body was covered with a truck liner. VBT Police turned the investigation over to the Michigan State Police when it was discovered that the homicide took place in the victim's home in the 4400 block of John Hix Road, south of Michigan Avenue, in Wayne.

According to unofficial reports, it is believed a nephew killed his 48-year-old uncle and there were stab wounds and gunshot wounds on the body. The nephew turned himself in to a hospital in Livonia for mental evaluation and he has been taken into custody.

The MSP are investigating the homicide. There are questions about how the suspect got from Belleville to Livonia and whether another person is involved.

Also, MSP showed channel 7 News on Monday night the ruts in the grass that indicates someone was trying put the truck in the lake but got stuck.

Those with information about this case are asked to call the MSP Metro South Post at (734) 287-5000 or leave a tip on the MSP Mobile App.

Belleville man dies in jet ski accident on Lake St. Clair on Saturday

Area media has reported that a 30-year-old Belleville man died Saturday evening after a jet ski accident on Lake St. Clair.

He was taken to River District Hospital where he was pronounced dead.

Reports said he was attending the Raft Off party when he hit a boat and the boat left the scene. The boater was later taken into custody.

Keystone Academy board votes to open school on Aug. 31

By Rosemary K. Oztman
Independent Editor

At its regular board meeting on July 14, held in person and virtually via Google Meet, the Keystone Academy Board of Directors heard Principal Jorvanna Drain report on what she knew for the fall school year.

She said a poll of stakeholders – families and teachers -- wanted the school year to start Aug. 31 and be over on June 11.

The board voted unanimously to start school on Aug. 31, amending the school calendar.

At a special meeting on Aug. 6, the board again approved the starting time.

Also at that meeting, which was held in person and virtually, the board approved an adjustment to the nine-year contract with Bay Mills Community College, which charts Keystone.

Board President Vesta Losen said everyone will wear masks in the hallways and other common areas, but not in the classrooms K-5. And, they will have recess.

At the July 14 meeting, Principal Drain said that Keystone is in the fourth phase, according to the governor, and that would mean a hybrid school session, with half the kids going two days each (M-T), one day when nobody comes and the school is disinfected (W), and then the other half of the students goes two days (Th-F).

"We are in the hands of the state and are in the Detroit region and Detroit is a 4. The governor determines what phase we are. When we get the count in August, we'll know what kind of school we will have," Drain said.

She said NHA has ordered 25,000 Chromebooks and so if virtual education is what is left, they will be ready with everyone having a Chromebook.

Drain said if it's 100% remote, teachers will teach and give tests.

Otherwise, teachers will have to wear masks all day long and they will have to plan for recesses and a lot of different changes.

"We want to make sure they receive a quality education," Drain said of the

students.

She said the school polled the staff three weeks earlier and staff was positive about going back in person, and she doesn't know if that has changed.

Drain said NHA is offering a full virtual school, free online, but it has to be approved by the state.

She said Van Buren Public Schools are starting Sept. 1, 2, and 3 and then reconvening the next Tuesday. She said Keystone will go the full five days starting Aug. 31.

NHA representative Andrew Roth said there were six plans being studied: generally remote, hybrid, and in person. All 51 school boards in Michigan are approving the plan that will be announced.

In other business at its July 14 meeting, the board welcomed Steve Harsant of Van Buren Township who was officially sworn in as a new board member, replacing Connie Shull who resigned due to family health problems;

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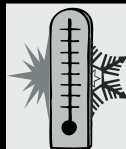
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VBPS

(continued from page 1)

the agenda, President Pearce said, "I have a real concern that Phase 4 is too aggressive ... the timeline to me is unattainable ... and we need an honest plan ... and we cannot address everything by Sept. 1... Maybe I'm wrong."

Kudlak said he feels they can "pull this off by Sept. 1."

Trustee Hawkins said he had concerns and asked if he had symptoms and he was "regular-sick not COVID-sick" what was the procedure. Kudlak said he couldn't come back for 14 days, the same as for COVID.

President Pearce said there is always a political aspect and, "We can't make decisions like that." She said the governor

said the decisions lie with the local school boards.

"It's three weeks out and teachers don't know if they will be teaching in person or remote," said board member Kelly Owen.

"They have to be ready for both," Kudlak said.

Vice President Featheringill said they have to be ready for both if the state goes back to Phase 3.

"It's possible we get done by Sept. 1," Kudlak said. "It's been worked on since March or April."

"Parents need a back-up plan," Pinter said.

Pearce said the governor should put the schools in remote learning.

Featheringill pointed out at the moment, about 10:45 p.m., there were 97 questions waiting to be answered and in a normal board meeting, "We would take down the

questions and let them know the answers later."

"Those that got questions answered could eliminate theirs," Kudlak said. "I don't want to eliminate them."

"Some people couldn't sit through this meeting," Featheringill said, suggesting they post the answers for them.

Kudlak said the staff comes back Aug. 26 and 27 and they will get specific details.

"You made the commitment to not start until ready," Pearce said to Kudlak. "I trust you."

Pearce said if the district is not ready with safety precautions by the Aug. 18 special meeting, they will delay the opening of school.

By the end of Monday's meeting, there were 108 questions and comments posted on Zoom.

In other business in the four-hour-and-37-minute meeting, the board:

- Approved taking the Career Tech Center property off the real estate market since the warehouse at the back of the property is needed. They had planned to build a warehouse on the St. Anthony property they purchased, but put the Early Childhood Development building there instead. The district has been trying to sell the Sumpter Road property for two years without a serious offer, Kudlak said, adding they may tear down the Career Tech Center building in front and put in grass to make it more presentable;

- Heard a report on the design of the Childhood Development Center, that now has a budget of \$13 million. Reports came from Plante Moran Cresa, Granger, and IDS. There will be two areas for student drop-offs, for parents and for buses, separated by the building. There will be 16 classrooms designed for 18 students each, two outside fenced play areas, plus other features. "I can't wait until we can use collaborative spaces like that again," Pearce said. The first batch of bids will come back to the board on Sept. 28 and the board will be expected to act on them at the same meeting;

- Approved the tentative agreement with the Van Buren Educational Support Team (VBEST) dated Aug. 3, which gives bus drivers, custodial/maintenance, and paraprofessionals a \$1 per hour raise. Also, more money is being offered the

more people take cash in lieu of insurance; and the longevity bonus will sunset at expiration in 2021;

- Approved purchase of 200 Chromebooks from SHI at a total cost of \$51,790 to expand the Chromebook fleet to prepare for increased remote learning needs and the possibility of district-wide closure;

- Heard Kudlak say the school times will change. He said they started looking at this pre-COVID in order to reduce bus runs to be more cost-effective. He said BHS and Owen would start a half hour earlier than it had and McBride and the elementary schools would start a half-hour later, with Haggerty school remaining the same;

- Accepted the resignation of Kimberly Rhodes, a teacher at Owen, after two years as of Aug. 5 for a job opportunity;

- Approved the recall from layoff of special education teacher Jennifer Bare for Belleville High School as of Aug. 25; and the reassignment of Scott Wilsey from being New Tech Director to teaching science and physics at the high school. Human Resources Director Abdul Madyun gave Wilsey kudos for stepping up and helping the district where he was needed;

- Accepted the resignation of Atemia Holley from the administration building after three years as of Aug. 21 for personal reasons; and the hiring of Alissa Frederick as paraprofessional in the Special Services Department as of Sept. 1; and

- Heard Kudlak say he held a hour-and-a-half Facebook Live session last Wednesday to discuss school reopening plans with parents and plans another session on Wednesday, Aug. 12. He said he is considering making that a Zoom session instead so he can show his documents on the screen.

Food Truck Rally on Aug. 27 to raise money for BHS Class of 2021

The public is invited to a Food Truck Rally from 4 to 8 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 27, in the Belleville High School parking lot.

The Tiger Parents BHS Class of 2021 is putting on the event to help the senior class. Many of the fundraisers usually run to support the senior graduation party will not take place this year because of the coronavirus, so they are looking for other opportunities.

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Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

There were 368 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police for last week, including the following.

Sunday, Aug. 2:

0147 – noise complaint, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0505 – property damage accident, Van Born Rd. / Belleville Rd.
0551 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
0844 – disorderly, S. I-94 Service Dr.
0857 – assist other dept., Denton Rd.
0940 – suspicious person/vehicle, Haggerty Rd.
1009 – property damage accident, Ecorse/Haggerty
1146 – family trouble, Oak Blvd.
1603 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1801 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
1823 – follow up by officer, Quirk Rd.
1946 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.
2014 – juvenile complaint, Alva Dr.
2040 – domestic, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2127 – domestic, Denton Rd.
2146 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood
2339 – suspicious person/vehicle, Locust Dr.

Monday, Aug. 3:

0101 – suspicious person/vehicle, Amanda Dr.
0737 – larceny from auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
0905 – ordinance violation, Marlowe Ave.
1033 – 911 welfare check, Belleville Rd.
1051 – fight, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1144 – domestic, Denton Rd.
1331 – juvenile complaint, Cambridge Ct.
1331 – juvenile complaint, Denton Rd.
1340 – malicious destruction of property, Rawsonville Rd.

1541 – fraud, Meadows Ln.
1544 – malicious destruction of property, Beckley
1554 – harassment call, Brandi Dr.
1608 – private property/property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1728 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Huron River
1817 – larceny from auto, Oak Ln.
1845 – family trouble, Woodbury Dr.
1848 – harassment call, Locust Dr.
1909 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
1922 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.
1926 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr./Van Buren St.

1934 – family trouble, Lake Crest Dr.
2016 – assault & battery, Arborview Ln.
2033 – traffic offense, Belleville Rd./Ecorse Rd.
2101 – suspicious person/vehicle, W. Adams
2343 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service

Tuesday, Aug. 4:

0109 – property damage accident, S. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville Rd.
0122 – domestic, Landmark
0300 – disorderly, Sumpter Rd.
0821 – suspicious person/vehicle, Savage Rd. / Pond Ridge Dr.
0832 – neighbor trouble, Victoria St.
1109 – fraud, Belmont Dr.
1119 – fight, Maurice Dr.
1138 – family trouble, Landmark
1143 – animal complaint, N. Dartmoor Cir.
1318 – sexual assault, Bellridge Blvd. / Independence Ln.

1318 – suspicious person/vehicle, Oak Ln.
1342 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd.
1354 – suspicious person/vehicle, North Shore Dr.
1359 – fraud, America
1424 – fraud, Brookside Dr.
1449 – ordinance violation, Daisy Blvd.
1713 – assist other dept., Prairie Ct.
1900 – traffic offense, McBride
1909 – neighbor trouble, Bog Rd.
1935 – traffic offense, Tyler Rd./Quirk Rd.
1953 – suspicious person/vehicle, Denton Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
2006 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2020 – traffic offense, Chatsworth Dr./Clayton Rd.
2102 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
2125 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Owen
2142 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
2204 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd.
2216 – shooting, Water's Edge

Wednesday, Aug. 5:

0137 – unauthorized driving away of auto, N. Bellridge Dr.
0159 – animal complaint, Lighthouse Dr.

0239 – disorderly, Greenwood Dr.
0307 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0400 – animal complaint, Denton Rd.
0417 – suspicious person/vehicle, Sonrisa/Nautica
0643 – personal injury accident, Haggerty Rd. / Woodbury Dr.
0902 – suspicious person/vehicle, Beck/Ecorse
1025 – larceny, Revere Dr.
1128 – larceny, Andover Dr.
1246 – larceny, S. I-94 Service Dr.
1314 – disorderly, Lighthouse Dr.
1355 – animal complaint, Lake Pointe Pass
1421 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harbor Ln.
1427 – shooting, Hickory Woods
1431 – animal complaint, Crowley Ave.
1516 – malicious destruction of property, Holly Ln.
1527 – suicidal person, S. Ponderosa Trl.
2051 – harassment call, Truman
2058 – larceny, N. I-94 Service Dr.
2136 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
2139 – unauthorized driving away of auto, S. I-94 Service Dr.

Thursday, Aug. 6:

0148 – 911 welfare check, Coca-Cola Dr.
0332 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville
0452 – domestic, Hamilton St.
0559 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
0746 – malicious destruction of property, Lake Villa Dr.

1034 – ordinance violation, Haggerty Rd.
1250 – animal complaint, Fret Rd.
1325 – trespassing, Quirk Rd.
1340 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / Van Born Rd.
1352 – larceny from auto, Ventura Dr.
1508 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

1628 – disorderly, Belleville Rd.
1622 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
1704 – property damage accident, Denton Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
1821 – trespassing, Belleville Rd.
1840 – suspicious person/vehicle, Brookside Dr.
1950 – leaving the scene of a property damage accident, N. I-94 Service Dr./Beck Rd.
2133 – retail fraud, Belleville Rd.

Friday, Aug. 7:

0258 – suspicious person/vehicle, S. I-94 Service
1056 – larceny from auto, Ecorse Rd.
1219 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1217 – found property/child, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1305 – ordinance violation, Lindsey Dr.
1406 – suspicious person/vehicle, Andover Dr.
1420 – larceny from auto, Coca-Cola Dr.
1423 – suspicious person/vehicle, Lacy Dr.
1438 – ordinance violation, Jackson St.
1543 – retail fraud, W. Huron River Dr.
1633 – threat, Maple Dr.
1637 – larceny from auto, Coca-Cola Dr.
1648 – found property/child, Hardwood Dr.
1655 – larceny from auto, DNR boat launch / Rawsonville Rd.

1724 – larceny from auto, DNR boat launch / Rawsonville Rd.
1913 – larceny from auto, Belleville Rd.
1913 – 911 welfare check, S. I-94 Service Dr.
2014 – animal complaint, Rayna Ct.
2026 – suspicious person/vehicle, Barnwell Dr.
2034 – traffic offense, Anna Dr.
2039 – traffic offense, McBride Ave./Haggerty
2107 – fireworks, Cobblestone
2108 – suspicious person/vehicle, Pebblebrook Dr.
2306 – suspicious person/vehicle, Burtrig St.
2350 – suspicious person/vehicle, Rawsonville Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 8:

0057 – noise complaint, S. Ponderosa Trl.
0121 – suspicious person/vehicle, Purple Sage Ct.
0330 – disorderly, Kirkridge Park Dr.
0704 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0816 – malicious destruction of property, N. I-94 Service Dr.
0909 – private property impound, Tyler Rd.
1052 – disorderly, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1101 – private property impound, Kirkridge Park Dr.
1139 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd.
1445 – 911 welfare check, N. I-94 Service Dr.
1518 – property damage accident, Hannan Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.

1535 – suspicious person/vehicle, Belleville Rd.
1641 – property damage accident, Rawsonville Rd.
1928 – malicious destruction of property, Dellor

2004 – harassment call, Chatsworth Dr.
2012 – domestic, S. Bellridge Dr.
2102 – noise complaint, Salem Ct.
2140 – suspicious person/vehicle, Hull Rd.
2324 – domestic, Victoria St.
2340 – suspicious person/vehicle, Outer Dr.
2345 – suspicious person/vehicle, Harmony Ln.
Also on this week's log are 126 traffic stop, 82 of which were on the I-275 and I-94 freeways.

Belleville Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Aug. 2:

0258 – suspicious person/vehicle, N. Liberty St.
0931 – disorderly, Main St.
0945 – traffic stop, Main St.
0954 – traffic stop, Main St.
1142 – warrant arrest, Main St.
1742 – traffic stop, Main St./N. Liberty St.
1935 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.

Monday, Aug. 3:

0547 – assist fire dept., Bedell St.
1746 – vehicle lockout, N. Liberty St.
2127 – suspicious person/vehicle, Main St.

Tuesday, Aug. 4:

1705 – suspicious person/vehicle, High St./Main
1923 – civil matter, W. Columbia Ave.
2126 – property damage accident, Sumpter/Owen
2159 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.

Wednesday, Aug. 5:

0028 – noise complaint, Loza Ln.
1017 – fraud, Church St.
1209 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave.
1254 – traffic stop, Angola St./E. Huron River
1319 – civil matter, Church St.
1445 – traffic stop, High St./Edison Ave.
1502 – suspicious person/vehicle, Liberty Yacht Club
1809 – vehicle lockout, Sumpter Rd.
1812 – civil matter, Church St.
2206 – traffic stop, South St./E. Columbia Ave.

Thursday, Aug. 6:

1117 – traffic stop, W. Columbia Ave.
1157 – 911 welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1402 – traffic stop, South St.
1448 – traffic stop, E. Columbia Ave./Madelon
1950 – disorderly, Main St.

Friday, Aug. 7:

0558 – assist other dept., E. Waterbury Ct.
1030 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ct.
1226 – welfare check, N. Liberty St.
1321 – assist other dept., N. I-94 Service Dr. / Belleville Rd.
1448 – warrant arrest, Belleville/Michigan
1829 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / Denton Rd.
1939 – property damage accident, High St.
2107 – trespassing, N. Liberty St.
2124 – property damage accident, W. Columbia Ave. / Huron River Dr.
2301 – suspicious person/vehicle, Biggs Ave. / E. Huron River Dr.

Saturday, Aug. 8:

0134 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St.
0832 – traffic stop, Main St./High St.
0936 – traffic stop, N. Liberty St./Main St.
1025 – traffic stop, South St.
1105 – traffic offense, Main St./Second St.
1117 – intrusion alarm, Carmell St.
1122 – traffic stop, South St.
1151 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./Biggs
1222 – traffic stop, E. Huron River Dr./N. Liberty
1400 – misc. complaint, Loza Ln.
1408 – assist fire dept., N. Edgemont Ave.
1532 – fight, Potter Dr.
1804 – fraud, Main St.
1838 – property check, Belle Villa Blvd.
2345 – suicidal person, N. Aberdeen Ct.
There were 17 traffic stops on this week's log.

Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

Sunday, Aug. 2:

0259 – suspicious vehicle, Creekside Dr.
0409 – suspicious circumstance, 8200 bl. Rawsonville Rd.

0651 – traffic complaint, Karr Rd./Willow Rd.
0846 – mental health call, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1204 – 911 hang up, 24000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1539 – animal complaint, 43000 bl. Judd Rd.
2353 – alarm, 46000 bl. Willis Rd.

Monday, Aug. 3:

0007 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Crandell Ave.
0132 – suspicious vehicle, Edgewood Dr.
0231 – citizen assist, 23000 bl Sumpter Rd.
0916 – traffic complaint, Willis Rd./Wilmot Rd.
1001 – suspicious circumstance, Stonecrest Dr.
1038 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1039 – suspicious person, Stonecrest Dr.
1058 – fire dept. assist, 26000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1131 – fraud complaint, Carriage Ln.
1137 – civil matter, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
1358 – mental health call, Edgewood Dr.
1433 – civil matter, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1548 – suspicious circumstance, Hampshire Dr.
1728 – civil matter, 19000 bl. Karr Rd.
1729 – neighborhood trouble, Carriage Ln.
1759 – 911 hang up, 46000 bl. Traskos Ave.
1808 – property damage accident, 43000 bl. Judd
2123 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Tuesday, Aug. 4:

0555 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Bemis Rd.
0839 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Karr Rd.
1235 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Elwell Rd.
1502 – ORV complaint, 23000 bl. Carleton West
1519 – fire dept. assist, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1802 – civil matter, Mulberry Dr.
1907 – patrol check, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1926 – disorderly person, Judd/Martinsville
2058 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

2111 – harassment complaint, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.

Wednesday, Aug. 5:

0932 – suspicious circumstance, 23000 bl. Sumpter
1037 – animal complaint, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.
1038 – fire dept. assist, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
1606 – 911 hang up, 48000 bl. Harris Rd.
1916 – assist other agency, 45000 bl. Harris Rd.
1923 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Clark Rd.
2027 – welfare check, 22000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
2046 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd./Oakville Waltz
2141 – animal complaint, 13000 bl. Rawsonville
2350 – family trouble, 22000 bl. Bohn Rd.

Thursday, Aug. 6:

0445 – suspicious circumstance, 28000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0655 – fire dept. assist, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.
0753 – suspicious circumstance, Stonecrest Dr.
0841 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Lohr Rd.
1121 – citizen assist, Carriage Ln.
1148 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1221 – animal complaint, 18000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1401 – suspicious circumstance, 50000 bl. Wear
1403 – mental health call, Carriage Ln.
1451 – civil matter, Knollwood Dr.
1543 – citizen assist, 21000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
1822 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Clay Rd.
1943 – suspicious circumstance, 22000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

Friday, Aug. 7:

0130 – mental health call, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
0248 – mental health call, 10000 bl. Rawsonville
0406 – family trouble, Rustic ln.
0658 – assist other agency, Willow/Otter
1242 – citizen assist, 51000 bl. Willis Rd.
1700 – welfare check, Rustic Ln.
1709 – civil matter, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1806 – civil matter, 45000 bl. Judd Rd.
1933 – 911 hang up, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
2210 – traffic complaint, Wear Rd./Sumpter Rd.

Saturday, Aug. 8:

0032 – follow-up investigation, 18000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
0335 – suspicious circumstance, California St.
0941 – personal injury accident, Willis Rd./Wilmot
1117 – civil matter, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1436 – alarm, 46000 bl. Kozma Rd.
1538 – shots fired, 10000 bl. Rawsonville Rd.
1733 – 911 hang up, 41000 bl. Willow Rd.
1903 – operating while intoxicated arrest, Wayside
1911 – civil matter, 5100 bl. Oakville Waltz Rd.
1912 – follow-up investigation, 17000 bl. Odyssey
2017 – 911 hang up, Sumpter Rd./Wear Rd.
2141 – fire dept. assist, 25000 bl. Karr Rd.

Also on this week's log are 29 patrol checks, 13 traffic stops, and four misc. details.

“You have to be odd to be number one.”
— Dr. Seuss

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Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

CHARTER TOWNSHIP
 OF VAN BUREN
 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES
 AUGUST 6, 2020
 ELECTRONICALLY VIA ZOOM

Supervisor McNamara called the meeting to order electronically via Zoom meeting ID 917 9701 6377 at 6:00 p.m. Present: Supervisor McNamara, Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Frazier, Trustee Martin, Trustee Miller and Trustee White. Others participating, facilitating and monitoring the meeting: Secretary Montgomery, Attorney Mannarino, Public Safety Deputy Director (Police Chief) Wright, Communication Specialists Albrecht and Nichols and maximum audience of nineteen (19)

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA: Frazier moved; Miller seconded to approve the agenda Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

PUBLIC COMMENT (Unfinished and New Business): Resident introduced himself and expressed interest in becoming involved in the community.

NEW BUSINESS:

Miller moved; McNamara seconded approve Resolution 2020-14 placement of a public safety millage renewal proposal on the November 3, 2020 General Election ballot. Roll Call Vote. Yeas: McNamara, Budd, Wright, Frazier, Martin, Miller and White. Motion Carried.

REPORTS: None.

PUBLIC COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: None.

BOARD COMMENT NON-AGENDA ITEMS: Board members: Commended the Clerk's Office and Election workers for doing an outstanding job on the Primary Election, announced that voter turnout set a new record with 8010 voters participating in Tuesday's Primary Election, thanked the Board for supporting the purchase of everything needed to run the election efficiently, and thanked the voters for their participation in the democratic process.

ADJOURNMENT: Miller moved; Frazier seconded to adjourn at 6:27 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk
 Kevin McNamara, Supervisor
 Published: August 13, 2020

or refrigerators. Be sure to check out their impromptu car show which has moved to Wednesday evenings, 5 to 9 p.m. Call (734) 858-7095 and see their ad in today's paper.

Congratulations are in order to new mom Angie Renaud (Design-line Embroidery) and Chris Tulik who had twins during the wee hours last Sunday morning. Welcome Magnolia Anne (4.10 lbs.) and Rowan Daniel (5.5 lbs.).

All the best in retirement to Norm Wisniewski of Atchinson Ford in Belleville after 16 years of service at our hometown dealer.

All Out - Estate Sale Services owner Jason Kosa specializes in personal service preparing your items and furnishings for the highest price returns. Kosa serves all of Southeast Michigan with estate sale liquidations. To learn more, visit www.alloutstatesaleservices.com and call (313) 364-9638. See their ad in today's paper.

Aero Realty of Romulus and owner Liz Slovik will offer you cash for your home, any condition. See her ad the in classifieds and call (734) 941-4595 or (313) 402-0187.

If you're a student athlete planning to play sports at BHS this fall, participants, in addition to having a current physical on file in the athletic office, must have a MHSAA Health Questionnaire, too, and they're available on the district's website at www.vanburenschools.net and at MHSAA.com. As of this week, fall sports have started or are about to begin with practices and tryouts in the following sports: Girls' and boys' cross-country, girls' cheer, swim, volleyball, and golf, while the guys take to the field for football, soccer, and tennis. On July 17, the Michigan High School Athletic Association member schools announced they will begin the 2020-21 school year playing fall sports as traditionally scheduled, but with contingency concepts for potential interruptions due to the spread of COVID-19. The MHSAA's plan calls for all fall sports to be started and played as scheduled. However, if the situation changes, the start of some or all fall sports practices or competitions could be delayed. The next step in the plan's progression calls for lower-risk fall sports that can be played to be completed, with higher-risk sports postponed until later in the school year. If all fall sports must be suspended, they will be rescheduled during a reconfigured calendar that would see winter sports begin in November followed by the conclusion of Fall and Spring seasons potentially extending into July 2021. Call BHS Athletics at (734) 697-0016.

Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your idea. There is no cost to be in this column.

"If you find yourself in a hole, stop digging."
 – Will Rogers

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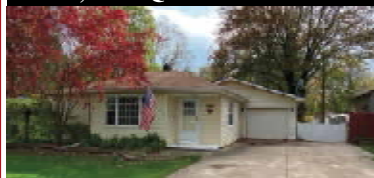
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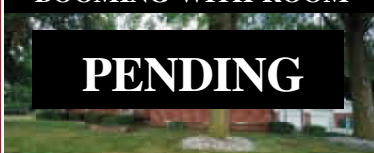
6397 BRIARCLIFF, VAN BUREN
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FEATURING 3 Bedrooms 2 Baths, Living Room, Formal Dining Room, Family Room, Fireplace, Basement, Huge Yard with Walkout Entertainment Deck, Sprinkler System and Larger 2 1/2 Car Garage. Impressive Curb Appeal. \$199,900

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48024 BEMIS, VAN BUREN TWP
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42719 POND RIDGE, VAN BUREN
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